



National Science Foundation

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U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS FACT SHEET

FY 2020 FAST FACTS



\$8,149,000

Total NSF awards
to Virgin Islands



\$5,479,000

Invested in fundamental
research in Virgin Islands



\$2,670,000

Invested in STEM
education in Virgin Islands

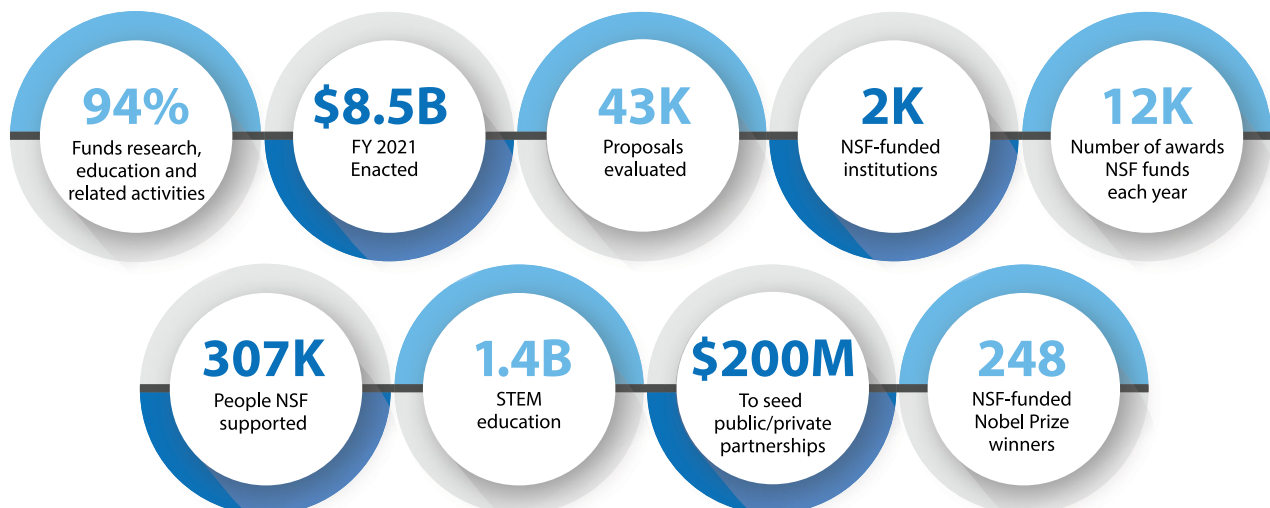
TOP NSF-FUNDED ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS FOR FY 2020

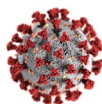
\$8,149,000

University of the Virgin Islands

NSF BY THE NUMBERS

The National Science Foundation (NSF) is an [\\$8.5 billion](#) independent federal agency created by Congress in 1950 to promote the progress of science; to advance the national health, prosperity, and welfare; to secure the national defense. NSF's vital role is to support basic research and researchers who create knowledge that transforms the future.





NSF-FUNDED RESEARCH FIGHTING COVID-19

Congress provided NSF with funding to prevent, prepare for, and respond to COVID-19 in the CARES Act of 2020 and the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021. For more information on NSF's COVID research, visit [NSF's award database](#) and [COVID funding reports](#).



STEM EDUCATION

STEM WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT | The **University of the Virgin Islands** received an NSF award for a project that aims to increase undergraduate student success in STEM courses by improving implementation of peer-led team learning (PLTL). This project focuses on the effects of PLTL in early mathematics courses. When PLTL was implemented in a remedial mathematics course at the university, students were able to complete the course successfully. However, fewer than half were successful in the subsequent course. This project will enhance the PLTL curriculum in this class to improve students' mathematical problem-solving skills. The project will also create new peer leader training modules, aimed at addressing a broad range of enhancements to student success, such as developing a sense of belonging, that may contribute to student persistence and retention. The project is supported by NSF's Directorate for Education and Human Resources through the EHR Core Research: Building capacity in STEM Education Research competition. The competition is designed to build individuals' capacity to carry out high quality fundamental STEM education research in STEM learning and learning environments, resulting in broadening participation in STEM fields and the STEM workforce.



RESEARCH DRIVING WORKFORCE INNOVATION

FUTURE OF WORK | The Ridge to Reef project is funded by a five-year, \$20 million grant dedicated to addressing the impacts of changing environmental conditions on small island social-ecological systems such as those in the U.S. Virgin Islands. This project was made through EPSCoR, the Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research Infrastructure Improvement Track-1 program. As the environment continues to change both through natural and human-influenced means, catastrophic events such as hurricanes are projected to have much more devastating effects on small island territories such as the U.S. Virgin Islands. The Ridge to Reef project will address several questions such as how land use practices impact the health of coastal ecosystems, what additional factors impact the resilience of the Territory's coral reefs, which factors are essential to the biodiversity of a coral reef ecosystem, and how biodiversity might impact the success of ecological restoration efforts. Specific areas of research include studying the impacts of climate change on coral reefs, marine ecology, watersheds and oceanography. With support from NSF, the **University of the Virgin Islands**, and the Government of the Virgin Islands, Virgin Islands-EPSCoR plans to continue to grow as a force for education and environmental stewardship across the Territory. In addition, Ridge to Reef provides funding to advance science literacy within the Virgin Islands and encourages STEM integration in the Territory's schools and at the **University of the Virgin Islands**.

EPSCoR

- **COMPETITIVE RESEARCH** | **U.S. Virgin Islands is one of 28 U.S. states or territories under NSF's Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR). Over \$5,380,000 in awards have been made to Virgin Islands academic institutions through EPSCoR in FY 2020. For more information, visit [U.S. Virgin Island's EPSCoR state web page](#).**

LEARN MORE

- **NSF70** – In 2020, NSF commemorated its 70th anniversary and the 75th anniversary of the publication of *Science - the Endless Frontier*. Watch the [highlight video](#) for NSF's seven decades of funding the best and brightest ideas that have transformed our lives and established the U.S. as a science and technology leader.
- **NSF FACT SHEETS** – NSF provides fact sheets about the agency and its bold investments in basic research. These fact sheets profile NSF investments in research across all fields of science and engineering, including [quantum](#), [artificial intelligence](#), and [advanced manufacturing](#), and the NSF-supported [research and computing infrastructure](#) powering the U.S. response to COVID-19.
- **CONNECT WITH NSF** – For more information on NSF's impact in your state, please contact NSF's Office of Legislative and Public Affairs at congressionalteam@nsf.gov.

